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Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Via Facsimile to 202-307-1454

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

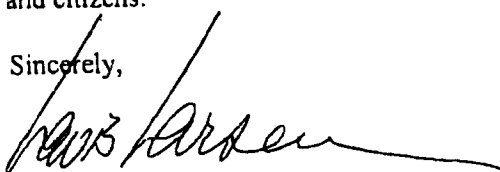
After years of litigation, I was pleased to hear that the government has made the wise decision to settle with Microsoft in regards to the antitrust lawsuit. I hope that no further litigation will be pursued in the future.

I feel that this settlement is fair and reasonable, considering it was arrived at after extensive negotiations with a court appointed mediator. While new government regulation will be imposed on the IT sector, this settlement will provide greater certainty about the new rules and thereby ensure that our industry can continue delivering advanced technology to the marketplace. Microsoft will, for example, be required to share information about the internal workings of Windows with its competitors so they can more easily place their own software on Windows-based systems.

With other pressing national priorities, it does not make any sense to spend scarce DOJ resources and taxpayer dollars on further litigation with Microsoft. As a participant in the software industry, I am well aware of Microsoft's hyper-competitive, hard-nosed business tactics. If anything, Microsoft has been guilty of being a super-competitor; its market dominance is a direct result of strong management talent, incredibly focused business tenacity, and an enormous willingness to keep pouring money into its products until it "gets them right" for its customers. By contrast, a predatory super-monopolist attempts to minimize capital spending and uses its market dominance to maintain or raise the prices of its products. Microsoft's behavior has never met the definition of a monopolist --- adjusted for inflation and major increases in useful features that are embedded in Windows, the price of Microsoft operating system software has never been lower than it is right now! Furthermore, Microsoft's software has made immeasurable contributions to the growth of the U.S. economy over the past 15 years and made our country the undisputed world leader in computer technology. Punish Microsoft for that? You have to be kidding me. It makes no sense.

Thanks to you and your DOJ team for making the choice to settle--- in doing that you are truly protecting the interests of our country's consumers and citizens.

Sincerely,



Lewis G. Larsen